

b) Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled)

Claims 17-40 are currently amended.

17. (Currently Amended) An excimer laser oscillating apparatus comprising:

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a gas supply path structure of a convergent-divergent nozzle type, including a fluid inlet, into which a laser gas is made to flow, a throat portion for controlling a flow speed of said laser gas less than a speed of sound, and a fluid outlet, of which said laser gas from said throat portion is made to flow out; and a throat portion provided between the fluid inlet and the fluid outlet;

a gas supplier for supplying a laser gas to the fluid inlet such that a flow speed of the laser gas is less than a speed of sound at the throat portion; and

a waveguide unit having a plurality of slots, for guiding microwave into said the gas supply path structure through the plurality of slots, to excite the laser gas.

18. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser oscillating apparatus according to Claim 17, further comprising a circulation system for circulating said laser gas flowing out of said fluid outlet, into said fluid inlet.

19. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser oscillating apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said gas supply path structure being arranged so that a ratio of a pressure at said fluid inlet to a pressure at said fluid outlet is not less than a ratio of critical pressures.

20. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to claim 17, wherein said laser gas is an excimer laser gas which is a mixture of F<sub>2</sub> gas with at least one inert gas selected from Kr, Ar, Ne, and He.

21. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 17, wherein said gas supply path structure for supplying said laser gas, said gas supply path structure being a structure without an inflection point.

22. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 17, wherein further comprising at least one pressure correcting means for correcting a pressure at said fluid inlet or at said fluid outlet.

23. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 17, further comprising at least one temperature correcting means for correcting a temperature at said fluid inlet or at said fluid outlet.

24. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 23, wherein said temperature correcting means has a cooling function and wherein said cooling is effected near said fluid outlet.

25. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 17, wherein said gas supply path structure further comprising vertical width adjusting means for adjusting a vertical width of said throat portion.

26. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser oscillating apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one bellows pump.

27. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser oscillating apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one circulating pump.

28. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser oscillating apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one blower.

29. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser oscillating apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one fan.

30. (Currently Amended) An excimer laser oscillating apparatus comprising: a gas supply path structure group including a plurality of connected convergent-divergent nozzles, said nozzle each comprising a fluid inlet, into which a laser gas is made to flow, a throat portion for controlling a flow speed of said laser gas, and a fluid outlet, of which said laser gas from said throat portion is made to flow out; and a throat portion provided between the fluid inlet and the fluid outlet;

a gas supplier for supplying a laser gas to the fluid inlet; and

a waveguide unit having a plurality of slots, for guiding microwave into said the gas supply path structure group through the plurality of slots, to excite the laser gas

wherein said gas supply path structure group includes a light emitting portion for generating a laser beam, and the flow speed of said laser gas at said light emitting portion is higher than a speed of sound, ~~and~~

~~wherein the laser oscillating apparatus is an excimer laser oscillating apparatus.~~

31. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 30, further comprising a circulation system for circulating said laser gas flowing out of a fluid outlet of said gas supply path structure group, into a fluid inlet of said gas supply path structure group.

D' 32. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to claim 30, wherein said laser gas is an excimer laser gas which is a mixture of F<sub>2</sub> gas with at least one inert gas selected from Kr, Ar, Ne, and He.

33. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 30, wherein said gas supply path structure group being a structure without an inflection point.

34. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 30, further comprising at least one pressure correcting means for correcting a pressure at a fluid inlet of said gas supply path structure group or at a fluid outlet of said gas supply path structure group.

35. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 30, further comprising at least one temperature correcting means for correcting a temperature at a fluid inlet of said gas supply path structure group or at a fluid outlet of said gas supply path structure group.

36. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 30, further comprising vertical width adjusting means for adjusting a vertical width of said throat portion.

37. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 31, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one bellows pump.

38. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 31, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one circulating pump.

39. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 31, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one blower.

40. (Currently Amended) The excimer laser ~~oscillating apparatus~~ according to Claim 31, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one fan.

Claims 41 - 44 (Cancelled).